

National Heritage Areas Alliance Update

ANHA



Alliance of National Heritage Areas Signs Memorandum of Understanding with French Regional Nature Parks; Hosts Delegation of French Park Professionals

On June 19, 2007 the Alliance of National Heritage Areas entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Federation de Parcs Naturels Regionaux, a system of forty-five regional nature parks in France. The agreement outlines the common activities and goals of the two organizations, in an effort to promote mutual understanding as well as the sharing of best practices and technical expertise across international boundaries.

The MOU builds on more than two years of exchange and dialogue between the Federation and the Alliance. In 2006, delegates from three national heritage areas toured two regional nature parks in France, with the aim of not only building relationships, but also of gaining new expertise in the areas of conservation and sustainable economic development. French regional nature parks share many similarities with the National Heritage Areas, including a commitment to improving regional quality of life through the protection of nationally significant landscapes and cultural traditions.



In addition to ratifying the agreement, delegates from the French Federation also participated in IHDC programming. Serge Menicucci, past director of the Verdon Park,

(continued on page 5)

Third International Heritage Development Conference A Great Success

The 2007 International Heritage Development Conference, "Passport to Crossing Boundaries" took place from June 17-21 in Detroit, MI. Sponsored by the Alliance of National Heritage Areas and hosted by the MotorCities National Heritage Area, the event featured a wide array of workshops, site visits, and educational sessions. Bringing together professionals from not only across the country, but also around the world, the meeting served to highlight the exciting work now going on in the heritage development field.

Conference events got underway on Sunday, June 17th with a "bonus day" of activities. Attendees boarded buses for a trip to a NASCAR race at the Michigan International Speedway. In addition to being an exciting and fun experience, the race also served as an introduction to the car culture that has played such an integral role in both Michigan's and the nation's history. On Monday, the first official day of the conference, the Heritage Development Institute (HDI) hosted a seminar on heritage areas, with a focus on building partnerships, engaging constituents and creating a consensus based regional vision. Also on Monday, three tours were held in the Detroit metro region. These included "A Car Lovers Paradise," and "A

Two Nation Destination," which included a visit to neighboring Windsor, Ontario.

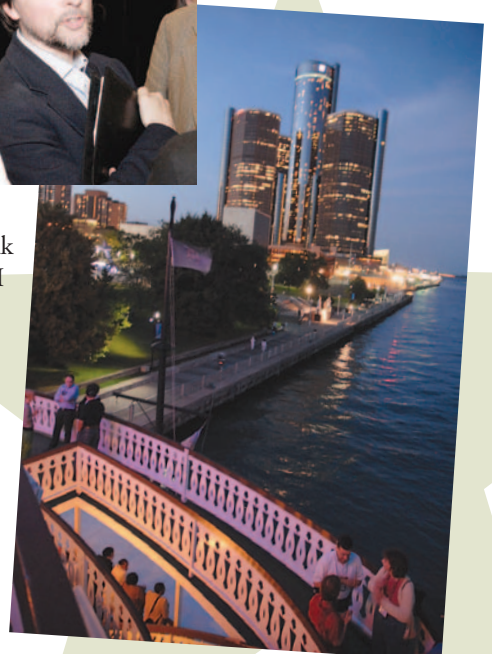
Monday evening featured one of the conference's highlights, a keynote address given by filmmaker Ken Burns. In addition to presenting a thought-provoking speech, Burns also shared a series of sneak preview clips from his new World War II documentary film. Other speakers on Monday evening included National Park Service Midwest Regional Director Ernie Quintana and Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick.

Events continued on Tuesday with a series of educational sessions. Topics covered included "Charting Sustainable Regional Development – The French Way", "Partnerships and Networks; New Insights into National Heritage Area

(continued on page 4)



Renowned film maker Ken Burns chats with IHDC participants.



Legislative Update

In late May, the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee acted on the NPS budget. Their proposal included \$20 million for National Heritage Areas and indicated that funds be allocated using a programmatic formula similar to that employed in FY 2007, adjusted for more current program data. The \$20 million is \$10 million more than requested by the Administration for the Heritage Areas program. On June 7, 2007, the full Committee on Appropriations acted on the budget and approved the proposed \$20 million for NHAs. It also indicated that the money should be distributed based on an allocation formula similar to that used in FY 2007.

In late June, the Senate Subcommittee overseeing National Parks allocated \$15 million for Heritage Area grants, \$5 million more than requested and \$5 million less than the amount allocated by the House. Senate bill language indicated that in FY 2008, Heritage Area funds should be allocated based on a programmatic formula similar to that used in FY 2007, with adjustments for more current program data and with input by the partners and the House and Senate Committees.

The President has not yet acted on the Congressional recommendations, nor have the two bodies met in conference.

In Memorium

Wyoming *Senator Craig Thomas*, a three-term Republican, died on June 4, 2007. Senator Thomas was a leading advocate for national parks in the Senate and served as the Chairman of the Parks Service Subcommittee. In addition, at the time of his death, the senator had been working on the passage of National Heritage Area program legislation.

Our thoughts are with his family and friends.

Conferences, Workshops and Events



Management and Interpretive Planning Workshop to be held in Baltimore, MD

The Alliance of National Heritage Areas and the Northeast Region of the National Park Service are co-sponsoring "Planning for Heritage Area Success: Developing Management and Interpretive Plans," a two-day workshop hosted by the Baltimore City Heritage Area on August 6-7. The sessions will explore the process of developing a management plan as well as the challenge of undertaking interpretive planning on a regional scale.

The sessions on Monday August 6th will focus on management planning. Workshop topics range from a general overview of the planning process to more specific sessions on public involvement

strategies, drafting a scope of work and creating foundation documents. Case studies will be used to both illustrate the planning process and to show the contributions that good planning can have on heritage area success. While National Heritage Area staff, board and key partners will most benefit from these sessions, the workshop is open to all.

On Tuesday, August 7th, the focus will shift to Interpretive Planning. During the all-day, advanced-level workshop, faculty will cover a wide range of topics including the assessment of resources, the development of interpretive messages, and the creation of an action plan. Presentations and exercises will be interspersed with case studies. This day's content is useful for heritage areas and regional-scale initiatives at all levels of designation.

Workshop Faculty will consist of planners from the National Park Service and executive directors and staff from the National Heritage Areas. Sessions will include presentations, interactive discussions, and take-home materials. **Registration is free, but space is limited** – so be sure to make your plans soon. Participants are welcome to attend one or both days.

To make a reservation send an email to John Cosgrove at anha.cosgrove@comcast.net, including your name, title, organization, mailing address, email, phone, and days on which you plan to attend. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact John (ph: 202-528-7549) or Suzanne Copping at (ph: 410-267-5754/email: suzanne_copping@nps.gov)

American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) Annual Meeting in September

AASLH will be holding its annual meeting from September 5-8 in Atlanta, Georgia. Using the theme of "Relevance = The Bottom Line," the meeting will focus on making history and historical societies relevant and important to the broader community. In addition to educational sessions, the conference will also feature planned tours and evening events.

National Preservation Conference in Saint Paul, MN

The National Trust for Historic Preservation will be holding its annual National Preservation Conference from October 2-6 in Saint Paul, MN. The conference includes a wide range of educational and field sessions as well as social networking events. For more information or to register, visit www.nthpconference.org or call 866-988-1188. Discounted early bird registration runs until July 31st. Registration information is available at <http://www.aaslh.org/anmeeting.htm>.



Parks, Peace and Partnerships Conference in Alberta, Canada

From September 9 to 12, 2007, the annual Parks, Peace and Partnerships Conference will be held at Waterton Lakes National Park in Alberta. Celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park, the conference will focus on the exchange of knowledge and experience across international boundaries. For more information on registration and programming visit the official website at <http://www.peaceparks2007.org/>.

New York Heritage Conference Planned for Albany

On November 13, a coalition of groups, including the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, will co-host a conference on the goals and objectives of heritage development in New York State. The event will take place in Albany. For more information contact Marcia Kees, NYS Heritage Areas Program Coordinator, at

Marcia.kees@oprhp.state.ny.us; (518) 237-8643.

Baltimore City Heritage Area Partners to Receive Million Dollar Grant

The US Department of Education has awarded the Baltimore City Public School System (BCPSS) a three-year grant totaling \$995,283.00. The grant will fund "Teaching American History in Authentic Baltimore," a programmatic partnership between the Baltimore City Heritage Area, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, Towson University, and the BCPSS. The program is designed to develop exemplary American history lesson plans and provide professional development sessions for a cohort of 90 teachers. Participants will learn how to use museums and historic sites to improve their teaching of American history, including a series of 24 day-long history workshops at 50 city museums and historic sites. The BCPSS is one of 40 school districts nationwide awarded \$116 million dollars in grants by the US Department of Education. The Teaching American History discretionary grant program supports three-year projects to improve teachers' knowledge and understanding of traditional American history through intensive, on-going professional development.



News from the Heritage Areas

Representatives from National Aviation Heritage Area Travel to Paris for Air Show

Building on pre-existing partnership with the city of Le Mans, in northwestern France, representatives from the National Aviation Heritage Area flew to Paris in June to attend the 2007 Paris Air Show. The event was a run-up for a 2008 Centennial Celebration in Le Mans, which will commemorate Wilbur Wright's famous 1908 flight in that city. In addition to their French connection, National Aviation has also established a productive relationship in Brazil, with groups interested in promoting the history of air travel in that nation, including the story of Alberto Santos-Dumont.

National Heritage Areas Among Top 10 Retirement Destinations

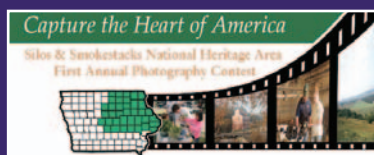
Natchitoches, LA, Boone, NC, and Yuma, AZ were recently highlighted by *U.S. News and World Report* as top retirement destinations. Located in Cane River NHA, Blue Ridge NHA and Yuma Crossing NHA respectively, the towns were chosen for their high quality of life and reasonable cost of living. Articles showcasing each town are featured in the June 11th issue of the magazine.



Cooperative Projects Highlight Unique Architecture in Essex National Heritage Area

The Essex National Heritage Commission (ENHC) in Massachusetts recently produced a *Guide to First Period Architecture in Essex County*, a brochure providing detailed information on 24 sites throughout the region. The free guide is available in print and online at <http://www.essexheritage.org>. In conjunction with the brochure, ENHC has also launched a new cooperative programming initiative, *17th Century Saturdays*. Working in partnership with the North of Boston Convention and Visitors Bureau and Historic New England, ENHC is offering a series of events aimed at encouraging visitors to learn more about these architecturally significant treasures. As part of the Escapes North region-wide cultural tourism program, 17th Century Saturdays will include tours, special events, family programs and more throughout the summer and early fall of 2007.

New Photography Contest Sponsored by Silos and Smokestacks National Heritage Area



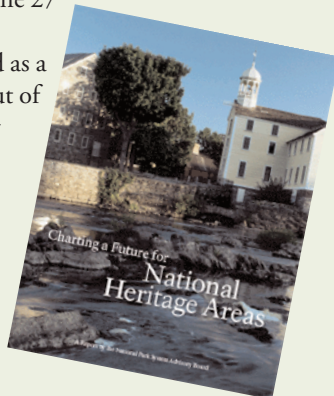
The Silos and Smokestacks National Heritage Area in northeast Iowa is sponsoring its first annual photography contest, "Capture the Heart of America." Running from June 6th to

September 12th, the contest seeks to highlight the following areas: events/festivals, farm life, heritage area sites and historic or scenic sites. All photos must be taken within the heritage area. Winners will be announced on or before October 30th.

Publications *and* Resources

One Year Anniversary of Charting the Future Publication

July 25th marks the one-year anniversary of the release of *Charting a Future for National Heritage Areas: A Report by the National Park System Advisory Board*. The 32-page report, designed by the National Geographic Society, highlights the accomplishments of the 27 existing National Heritage Areas and offers suggestions for future directions and growth. Since its publication, the report has served as a roadmap for program development and action. The study grew out of two year review process headed by National Park System Advisory Board member Jerry Hruby, mayor of Brecksville, Ohio, in partnership with the Alliance of National Heritage Areas. To view an electronic version of the report, visit www.nps.gov/policy/NHAreport.htm. To request hard copies, contact Eleanor Mahoney at Eleanor_Mahoney@contractor.nps.gov.



New Preservation Blog

PreservationDirectory.com has recently launched a new "Preservation Blog." The blog serves as a collection of "mini-blogs" that present articles and news items on a wide variety of topics under the umbrella of historic and cultural resource preservation. Topics covered include restoration techniques, museum exhibitions and preservation legislation. To sign up for the blog, visit <http://www.preservationdirectory.com/preservationblogs/articlecategories.aspx>.

Assistance

Tourism Cares Worldwide Grant Program

Tourism Cares is currently accepting applications for its Worldwide Grant Program, which distributes charitable grants to tourism-related non-profit organizations. Primary consideration is given to projects whose goals include capital improvements and the education of local communities. Based on merit and availability of funds, grants up to \$100,000 will be considered. The steps of the grant funding process can be found at: http://www.tourismcares.org/Worldwide_Grant_Program.aspx.

National Park Service American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP).

Federal, state, local, and tribal governments, nonprofit organizations, and educational institutions are eligible to apply for battlefield protection grants each year. The ABPP's goal is to safeguard and preserve significant American battlefield lands for present and future generations as symbols of individual sacrifice and national heritage. More information about ABPP as well as past grant recipients is available at <http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/abpp/>.

For more information on heritage areas, please visit our websites.

The Alliance Update is a partnership project of the Alliance of National Heritage Areas and the National Park Service National Heritage Areas Program.

Send your heritage area events and news to the editor by the 18th of the month for inclusion in the following month's bulletin.

Please forward this bulletin to others who may be interested, and encourage them to join our e-bulletin address list.

- Reach the editor at Eleanor_Mahoney@contractor.nps.gov
- Reach the National Coordinator for Heritage Areas at Brenda_Barrett@nps.gov
- To subscribe or unsubscribe, send an email to the editor.

John W. Cosgrove
Executive Director
Alliance of National Heritage Areas
202.528.7549
anha.cosgrove@comcast.net
www.nationalheritageareas.org

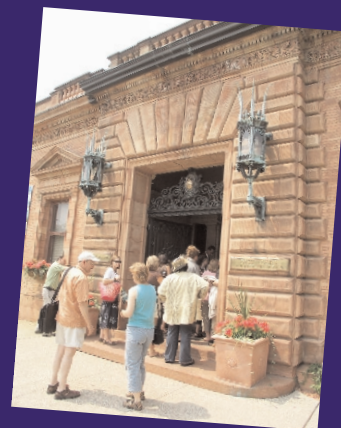
Eleanor Mahoney
National Park Service
National Heritage Areas
202.354.2268
Eleanor_Mahoney@contractor.nps.gov
www.cr.nps.gov/heritageareas/



Heritage Development Conference *(continued from page 1)*

Management," and "Telling Stories of Conflict." In total, more than thirty presenters shared ideas and experiences on some twenty subjects, creating a truly rich experience for all those in attendance. On Tuesday evening, one of the most exciting moments of the conference occurred – the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the Federation des Parcs Naturels Regionaux, an association of 45 French regional nature parks, and the Alliance of National Heritage Areas. The MOU builds on more than two years of negotiation and exchange between the organizations and outlines ways to promote mutual understanding as well as the sharing of best practices across international boundaries.

In addition to more traditional educational sessions, the conference also included a series of regional labs that took participants out into the Detroit metro region on Wednesday afternoon. These special visits introduced tour goers to the surrounding landscape at multiple venues including the Detroit waterfront, the Rouge River, and neighboring Windsor, Ontario. Aimed at highlighting the exciting work done by the Motorcities National Heritage Area, the labs explored issues such as partnership development, capacity building and historic preservation. The conference also included many social networking events, which gave participants from across the country a chance to meet one another and exchange technical expertise. Especially memorable events included a cruise along the Detroit River and a Motown Musical Revue at the Historic Royal Oak Theatre. The jam-packed, four day conference concluded with a visit to the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village as well as a wonderful lunch prepared largely from locally grown food stuffs. The site of the next IHDC conference in 2009 has yet to be decided, so stay tuned for more information. A big thanks to all those involved in the planning and execution of "Passport to Crossing Boundaries."



Delegation of French Park Professionals *(continued from page 1)*

and Dominique Leveque, current director of the Montagne de Reims Park, both presented on the history, goals and challenges of sustainable development in France, while Jacques Decugniere, past director of the Luberon Park, and Jean-Luc Beghin, current director of a three park coalition in the north of France, offered insights into the day-to-day challenges of both conserving and promoting unique natural and cultural resources. Also in attendance at the conference was Luc Coppin, the director of the Scarpe-Escaut Park in the north of France.

Following their time in Detroit, the French delegates traveled to Pennsylvania to visit three national heritage areas - the Schuylkill River National Heritage Area, the Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor and the Lackawanna Heritage Valley National Heritage Area. During their three-day tour, the visitors were exposed to a wide array of sites, projects and programming. In



Alliance of National Heritage Areas Executive Director John W. Cosgrove welcomes participants to the International MOU Signing Ceremony in Detroit, Michigan. Seated on the left is ANHA Chairman Dayton Sherrouse and seated on the right is Dominique Leveque representing the Federation de Parcs Naturels Regionaux.

Pottstown, delegates learned about an exciting educational partnership between a local community college and the Schuylkill River National Heritage Area, while in Wilkes-Barre they visited an ongoing levee construction project, which includes the creation of a regional trail system supported by the Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor. In Scranton, the delegates had the opportunity to visit with elected officials to learn about the impact of programming undertaken by the Lackawanna Heritage Valley National Heritage Area. This includes partnerships with local museums and historical societies as well as the support of preservation-minded economic development initiatives.

After completing the tour, the French delegates and National Heritage Areas staff pledged to continue their partnership with ongoing technical exchange. In October of this year, an American delegation representing the Alliance will travel to the Loire Valley region of France to participate in a companion signing ceremony to the Detroit event. It is hoped that the MOU will lead to new and exciting dialogue in the field of Heritage Development, including the potential for individual partnerships between Regional Nature Parks in France and National Heritage Areas in the United States.



Stretching 150 miles across the state of New York from Troy in the north to Yonkers in the south, the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area (HRVNHA) encompasses a rich diversity of historic, cultural, scenic and recreational resources. Designated by Congress in 1996, the HRVNHA is a partnership of local, state, federal and not-for-profit bodies with the Hudson River Greenway, a state entity, serving as the primary manager. This innovative structure allows the Heritage Area to leverage technical expertise and resources from a wide variety of sources, therein expanding the scope of potential projects and initiatives. In addition, HRVNHA can count upon the support of state and local partners in both its planning and its project implementation. Divided into roughly three sections, Upper Hudson, Mid-Hudson, and Lower Hudson, the Heritage Area aims to increase access to and interpretation of the Hudson River and its surrounding towns.

Ambitious Projects Highlight Importance of Working in Partnership for HRVNHA

In an effort to support the organization's mission and goals, Hudson Valley staff and volunteers are currently working on a broad range of projects, many in partnership with other public and private entities. One exciting initiative is the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route (W3R), a trail which links nine states



Photos Courtesy of the HRVNHA

and the District of Columbia from Massachusetts to Virginia. The HRVNHA has been working with the National W3R Association to link New York W3R sites directly to those of Connecticut and New Jersey and in turn to the other six states involved. Another project of note is the "Amtrak Initiative," an effort funded, in part, by an Explore New York grant from the New York State Department of Economic Development's Division of Tourism. In an attempt to reach a wide and diverse audience, the HRVNHA is developing *New Amsterdam to Fort Orange: A Passenger's Guide to the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area*, a brochure which will target passengers on Amtrak trains traveling through the Heritage Area.



Finally, in upcoming months, the HRVNHA will be participating in two exciting joint ventures. This November, the Heritage Area is co-hosting a New York State Heritage Conference in Albany,

while in 2009, the HRVNHA will team up with a wide variety of organizations, including the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership and the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, to mark the Quadricentennial Anniversary of the voyages of Samuel de Champlain and Henry Hudson. For more information on the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, visit their website at <http://www.hudsonrivervalley.com/>.

HUDSON RIVER VALLEY
NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA